

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02230 170919Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /150 W
-----126371 181438Z /64

R 170831Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7378
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SU
SUBJ: STATUS REPORT: CHEVRON EXPLORATION EFFORTS

REF: A) KHARTOUM 1258, B) KHARTOUM 1952

1. HEAD OF CHEVRON DRILLING UNIT BRIEFED AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN'S MEETING ON 15 MAY ON STATUS OF EXPLORATION EFFORTS. HIS REPORT CAME AMIDST PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WOULD ANNOUNCE LARGE OIL FIND MAY 25 AT MAY REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS. RUMORS BASED UPON EXPLORATION ACTIVITY AT SECOND CHEVRON WELL.

2. BRIEFING INDICATED THAT THERE HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN OIL FIND. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SOME GAS AND OIL WERE FOUND IN SECOND WELL, BUT PRELIMINARY INTERPRETATIVE TESTS DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE WELL WOULD BE A PRODUCER. TESTS WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE EXTRACTION OF TWO TO FOUR ACTUAL SAMPLES OF MATERIAL FROM THE WELL. THESE TESTS, WHICH
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WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL AFTER MAY 25, WILL PROVIDE MORE DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME BEST JUDGEMENT IS THAT STRUCTURES ONCE CONTAINED OIL WHICH HAS BEEN DISPLACED BY WATER.

3. CHEVRON OFFICIAL REGRETTED THAT WIDESPREAD RUMORS HAD FORCED CHEVRON INTO A NEGATIVE POSITION, WHEN, IN FACT,

THEY ARE QUITE OPTIMISTIC WITH FINDINGS IN SECOND WELL. THERE WERE OIL SHOWS FROM 7000 FOOT LEVEL TO 14,000 FOOT POINT WHERE DRILLING STOPPED. FOLLOWING FINAL TESTS, WELL WILL BE ENCASED RATHER THAN ABANDONED.

4. ON MAY 16 DRILLING STARTED ON THIRD WELL. RECENT ARRIVAL OF SECOND RIG WILL PERMIT SPUDDING OF FOURTH WELL BEFORE THE END OF MAY. CHEVRON EXPECTS TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL WORK IN THE AREA OF THE SECOND WELL, BUT FOR THE MOMENT THEY INTEND TO EXPLORE IN AN AREA SOMEWHAT FURTHER TO THE SOUTH.
BERGUS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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